

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims in the above-identified patent application as follows:

1. (currently amended) An essentially anhydrous, hydrophobic, substantially pigment free, homogeneous and stable ~~earier~~ carrier gel, free of synthetic oils, consisting essentially of a minor proportion by weight of a waxy solid and a major proportion by weight of a naturally occurring vegetable oil, the gel having particles of waxy solid in a size range from about 0.1 μm to 10 μm homogeneously distributed as a disperse phase the gel having a viscosity in the range from 10,000 cP at 25°C measured with a T-A bar at 0.5 rpm, to about 100,000 cp at 25°C measured with a T-F bar at 0.1 rpm, each measured with a Brookfield Model DV-II+ Viscometer on a Model D Helipath stand, the gel being stable for at least 30 days when confined in a container in an air atmosphere at 40°C at substantially sea level.

2. (original) The carrier gel of claim 1 wherein the vegetable oil includes from 0 to 15% by weight of a hydrogenated vegetable oil.

3. (original) The carrier gel of claim 1 wherein the vegetable oil is present in an amount in the range from about 55% to 95%, and the waxy solid is present in an amount in the range from about 5% to 40%.

4. (original) The carrier gel of claim 3 wherein the vegetable oil is present in an amount in the range from about 60% to 90% by weight of the gel, and the waxy solid is present in an amount in the range from about 10% to 25%.

- [[4.]] 5. (currently amended) A method for preparing a carrier gel, comprising, heating a mixture of a minor proportion by weight of a waxy solid and a major proportion by weight of a naturally occurring vegetable oil to a temperature above the melting point of the waxy solid but below a temperature at which either of the components is degraded;

cooling the mixture to a temperature below about 38°C (100°F) to form a slurry having an initial viscosity in the range from about 2,000 cp to 50,000 cp at 25°C; continuously mixing the slurry with sufficient energy to raise the temperature at least 5°C to form a rheopectic mass and simultaneously cooling the mass to a temperature below 49°C (120°F); thereafter cooling the rheopectic mass to ambient temperature; and, recovering a cool and stable carrier gel having no visible slump at 30°C for a period of 24 hr, and a viscosity in the range from 10,000 cP at 25°C measured with a T-A bar at 0.5 rpm, to about 100,000 cP at 25°C measured with a T-F bar at 0.1 rpm, each measured with a Brookfield Model DV-II+ Viscometer on a Model D Helipath stand.

[[5.]] 6. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the cool and stable gel is held open to the atmosphere for at least 8 hr to enhance the stability of the gel.

[[6.]] 7. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 including heating the mixture to a temperature from about 5°C to 20°C above the melting point of the waxy solid; and, wherein the vegetable oil is present in an amount in the range from about 55% to 95%, and the waxy solid is present in an amount in the range from about 5% to 45%.

[[7.]] 8. (currently amended) An emollient carrier gel produced by heating a mixture of a minor proportion by weight of a waxy solid and a major proportion by weight of a naturally occurring vegetable oil to a temperature above the melting point of the waxy solid but below a temperature at which either of the components is degraded; cooling the mixture to a temperature below about 38°C (100°F) to form a slurry having an initial viscosity in the range from about 2,000 cp to 50,000 cp at 25°C; continuously mixing the slurry with sufficient energy to raise the temperature at least 5°C to form a rheopectic mass and simultaneously cooling the mass to a temperature below 49°C (120°F);

thereafter cooling the rheopectic mass to ambient temperature; and, recovering a cool and stable carrier gel having no visible slump, a viscosity in the range from 10,000 cP at 25.degree. C. measured with a T-A bar at 0.5 rpm, to about 100,000 cP at 25.degree. C. measured with a T-F bar at 0.1 rpm and a Brookfield Model DV-II+ Viscometer on a Model D Helipath stand.

[[8.]] 9. (currently amended) The carrier gel of claim 7 wherein the cool and stable gel is held open to the atmosphere for at least 8 hr to enhance the stability of the gel.

[[9.]] 10. (currently amended) The carrier gel of claim 7 including heating the mixture to a temperature from about 5°C to 20°C above the melting point of the waxy solid; and, wherein the vegetable oil is present in an amount in the range from about 55% to 95%, and the waxy solid is present in an amount in the range from about 5% to 45%.